Application Serial No. 09/758,667 Atty. Docket No. 005950-656 Page 3

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REMARKS

In the present amendment, the first paragraph on page 1 has been amended to add the issued patent numbers of the three referenced applications; to correct the filing date of U.S. Serial No. 09/470,053, issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,398,946, from December 21, 1999, to December 22, 1999; and to clarify the relationship of the related applications.

Entry of the present amendment is requested as the amendment merely addresses formal matters. By the present amendment, no new issues are presented for the Examiner's consideration. Accordingly, entry of the amendment as being directed to formal matters without changing the scope of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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